

**Taskforce on refugees with disabilities  
Minutes of the meeting**

	<b>Taskforce on refugees with disabilities</b>	<b>Location</b>	Hybrid
<b>Chair</b>	Ludmila Malcoci, Keystone in Moldova	<b>Date and Time</b>	15 June 2022, 10:00 -13:00
<b>Taskforce members participating</b>	Keystone in Moldova, Alliance of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in Moldova (AOPD), Motivatie NGO, LOW Vision NGO, HelpAge International, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNDP, OIM, UNICEF, IM Swedish Development Partner, IsraAid, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation,		
<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Main Points Discussed</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Persons</b>
Introduction. Opening remarks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bea Ferenci, International Human Rights Adviser, Chief of UN Human Rights Office in Moldova highlighted the importance if inter-sectorial for a more disability inclusive response. Including in accordance with the art. 11 of CRPD that calls for calls for international humanitarian law to be read through a human rights-based approach to disability.\</li> </ul> <p><b>Short presentation about Disability Taskforce</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ludmila Malcoci, chair of the TF presented the main of setting up the TF on refugees with disabilities, including the aspects related to the needs of establishing the main issues, gaps and priorities for supporting refugees with disabilities.</li> <li>• Established under UNHCR - end of March</li> <li>• Members of TF- national NGOs, public authorities, donors, international organizations, and NGOs</li> <li>• AOPD – provided big support for organization of NGOs</li> </ul> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainstreaming disability in emergency response plans</li> <li>• Coordination of activities for rapid response to the needs of persons with disabilities refugees</li> <li>• Provision of an efficient reference mechanism</li> <li>• Joint communication and advocacy to make persons with disability voice heard</li> </ul> <p><b>Main achievements from the creation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination and communication ensured among stakeholders through the periodical TF meetings</li> <li>• Developed and implemented a reference mechanism to support persons with disabilities</li> <li>• Developed joint advocacy action plan</li> <li>• Advocated for disability inclusion and Mainstreamed disability in other sectors (focal points delegated to participate in meetings, checklist indicators)</li> <li>• Established partnership relations and collaboration with various donors and international NGOs</li> <li>• Conducted several advocacy meetings with central public authorities to increase the accessibility of shelters</li> <li>• Established regional EASPD hub in Moldova and built relationships with NGOs from other countries including Ukraine to ensure safe transfer of persons with disabilities</li> <li>• Increased the visibility of actions in disability field through weekly reports and their integration in UNHCR newsletter</li> <li>• Integrated disability in several assessment tools</li> </ul>		
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<p>Guest speaker: 3 Ukrainian refugees with disability and/or who have a child/family member with disability</p>	<p><b>Positive aspects:</b> the refugees highly appreciated the support and assistance they have received in the country, especially the support provided by Keystone in Moldova.</p> <p><b>Challenges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of accessible facilities (shelters);</li> <li>• Limited access to specific medicines required; to hygienic products, as well as of accessible transportation;</li> <li>• Difficulties in documentation, in case of passport expiration.</li> </ul>		
<p>Short updates on the Disability Taskforce activity</p>	<p><b>Joint efforts for disability support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 NGOs reported on a weekly basis on provided support: Keystone, Motivatie, CDPD, Speranta, FCPS, SOS Autism, Asotiatia antreprenorilor cu dizabilitati, Low vision, Osort, Voinicel, Tony Hawks, Azi, Compasiune, Asociatia nevazatorilor .</li> <li>• All in total more than 1400 persons with various types of disabilities were supported by this channel</li> </ul> <p><b>Types of provided support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing services (Speranta, SOS autism, Compasiune, Osort, Asociatia antreprenorilor cu dizabilitati)</li> <li>• Nutrition services-all 14 NGOs</li> <li>• Health care services –Keystone Moldova</li> <li>• Information and psychological counseling- all 14 NGOs</li> <li>• Hotline and Mobile team services ( Keystone Moldova)</li> <li>• Safe playground services (Keystone Moldova/IzraAid)</li> <li>• Transportation services ( adapted) provided by Motivatie NGO</li> <li>• Legal assistance ( CDPD)</li> <li>• Rehabilitation services ( SoS Autism, Low vision, Voinicel, Tony Hawks)</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign interpretation services – Asociatia Surzilor</li> </ul> <p><b>IsraAid:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides support in organizing activities for children at BCPs;</li> <li>• Provided an accessible mobile Biotoilet.</li> </ul> <p><b>UNICEF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concluded an agreement with National Health Insurance House for providing access to medicine and medical assistance for children refugeed.</li> </ul>		
Discussions: problems and solutions for a disability inclusive response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data on persons with disabilities and their needs assessment</li> <li>• Adapted transportation</li> <li>• Transition to other countries or their accommodation in Moldova (travel cost, adapted transportation, accessible housing)</li> <li>• Accessible shelters (accessible shelter, toilets, bathrooms, kitchen ( including to prepare own meals based on a diet)</li> <li>• Access to healthcare( medications and diagnostic services )</li> <li>• Access to the specific food (free gluten, free sugar etc.)</li> <li>• Assistive equipment based on needs (wheelchairs, walkers, glasses, ear implants etc.)</li> <li>• Counselling and rehabilitation services</li> <li>• Support services and assistive equipment for better integration in schools</li> <li>• Support services for better inclusion in the open labor market</li> <li>• Capacity building of public authorities on addressing the needs of persons with disabilities</li> <li>• No registration mechanism at LPA level; Access to gluten and sugar free food</li> <li>• Donors mapping for refuges support is necessary;</li> </ul>	•	•

